

~~Abstract~~ **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

~~Method for Connecting Terminal Devices to External Modems~~

^A
The following invention is directed to a method for connecting terminal devices (1, 2) to external modems (3, 4), whereby the modems (3, 4) can connect to the terminal devices (1, 2) with a local network (6). The local network can, in particular, be an Ethernet network (6) and the modems are preferably ADSL modems (3, 4). For the connection setup between one of the plurality of terminal devices (1, 2) and one of the modems (3, 4), a search request is first sent from the corresponding terminal device (1, 2) to all modems (3, 4) that are connected to the local network LAN (6). Those modems (3, 4) that have free resources available send a reply to the terminal device (1, 2). The terminal device (1, 2) subsequently selects one of the modems (3, 4) that have sent a reply. This is followed by the connection setup proceeding from the terminal device (1, 2) to the selected modem (3, 4) by exchanging control information.

~~Figure 1~~